

32. (New) The actuating device according to claim 22, wherein only the catch spring exerts a restoring force on the fixing catch.

33. (New) The actuating device according to claim 22, wherein the fixing catch is directly pivoted by an axial movement of the linkage.

34. (New) The actuating device according to claim 23, wherein the brake-actuating lever is formed in a hand-operated parking brake designed with a handle.

35. (New) The actuating device according to claim 22, wherein the brake-actuating lever is formed in a foot-operated parking brake designed with a pedal.

REMARKS

Consideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested. Support for all new claims is found in the specification as originally filed. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been added.

Applicant believes that the amended claims are patentable and respectfully requests early and favorable action.

Respectfully submitted,

DAVIDSON, DAVIDSON & KAPPEL, LLC

By: 

Morey B. Wildes
Reg. No. 36,968

Davidson, Davidson & Kappel, LLC
485 Seventh Avenue - 14th Floor
New York, New York 10018
(212) 736-1940

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**VERSION OF SPECIFICATION AND CLAIMS AMENDMENTS
WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 1, in the title:

[Actuating device for a parking brake] OPERATING MECHANISM FOR A PARKING BRAKE

The paragraph beginning on page 1, line 5:

The invention relates to an operating mechanism or actuating device [according to the preamble of claim 1] for a parking brake in motor vehicles [, comprising a toothed segment which is arranged on a bridge-type support of the vehicle body, a brake-actuating lever which is articulated on the bridge-type support, a coupling unit which tensions a brake cable in accordance with the displacement of the brake-actuating lever, a fixing catch which is articulated on the brake-actuating lever and interacts with the toothed segment, a catch spring for pretensioning the fixing catch in the direction of the toothed segment, and a linkage which can be actuated along the brake-actuating lever].

The paragraph beginning on page 4, line 17:

It is the object of the invention to provide an actuating device [according to the preamble of claim 1, which] that, with simple means, enables a good reduction of noise when applying the parking brake. The actuating device has a toothed segment that is arranged on a bridge-type support of the vehicle body, a brake-actuating lever that is articulated on the bridge-type support, a coupling unit that tensions a brake cable in accordance with the displacement of the brake-actuating lever, a fixing catch that is articulated on the brake-actuating lever and interacts with the toothed segment, a catch spring for pretensioning the fixing catch in the direction of the toothed segment, and a linkage that can be actuated along the brake-actuating lever.

The paragraph beginning on page 4, line 21:

This object is achieved according to the invention for the actuating device [mentioned at the beginning by the characterizing features of claim 1] in that the catch spring is designed as a compression spring and engages on one end, which faces away from the toothed segment, of the fixing catch designed as a single-piece double lever, and that the linkage displaces the locking catch out of engagement with the toothed segment counter to the presentation of the catch spring only in the actuating state.

On page 15, first line:

[CLAIMS] WHAT IS CLAIMED IS